

“DREAMING OF A *GREEN* CHRISTMAS”

The holiday season offers more opportunity for recycling than any other time of the year. While you enjoy this season, remember our environment and your role in protecting it by following these simple tips.

GIFT WRAP

Instead of tearing open those packages, unwrap them carefully and save the wrapping for next year. By doing this, you're not only saving resources, you're saving money. Paper that can't be reused should go into your recycling bin. Remove ribbons and tape first. Of course those pretty ribbons and bows can be reused. However, foil and plastic wrap should go into the trash. Keeping that in mind, next time you buy gift wrap, skip that pretty foil.

Gift boxes can also be reused for several years. After their life span is over they, too, should go into the recycle bin.

CARDS

Remove the back of the card and save the front. Those beautiful or funny card fronts can be used to decorate your packages. Why not try gluing two fronts together and turning them into holiday mobiles? If you don't feel creative here's a really worthwhile use for your used cards: send the fronts to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. At this facility, the children are paid to trim the card fronts and glue them to pre-printed card backs; these 'born again' cards are then sold to the public. The mailing address to send your card fronts is St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder City, NV 89005-1618. For more information visit their website: www.vegasradio.com/card.

ENTERTAINING

Rinse those bottles and cans before adding them to the recycle bin. Also try purchasing reusable plates and cups rather than throw-aways.

THE TREE

Check with your local city or town to determine correct disposal procedures for fresh-cut Christmas trees - they may have a drop-off or pick up program for them.

GOT NEW CLOTHES?

While you'll probably get some really nice new things, remember that someone, somewhere can use your old clothing. Recycle sweaters, jackets and other clothing by donating them to the thrift store of your choice. Most of these stores will also give you a receipt for deductions at tax time.

Other recyclables these stores can use include toasters, dishes and coffee makers as well as used toys and books.